

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed June 2, 2005 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claim 2 is canceled. Claims 1, 7-11, 14, 20, and 21 have been amended and claims 24-29 are added. Claims 1 and 3-29 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 10, 14, and 21 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-10, 14-17, and 20-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0010546 (Chen).

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Chen in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0123386 (Perlmutter).

Claims 11-13, 18, 19, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Chen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,781,623 (Thomas).

Independent claims 1 and 14 have each been amended to include the recitation "processing each of the plurality of electronic image signals to correct the brightness of images produced by the electronic image signals by comparing the brightness of the produced images to a predefined or stored desired brightness standard".

Chen discloses a method and apparatus for rendering multiple view images. According to Chen, panoramic images 41 and composite image of a surface 55 are generated by combining a plurality of discrete images (see Figs. 2 and 3 of Chen). Chen fails to disclose that the brightness of images is corrected based on a predefined or stored desired brightness. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 14 should now be allowable over Chen.

Claims 10 and 21 have each been rewritten in independent form and include the recitations of "combining a plurality of corrected image signals corresponding to a plurality of

substantially identical images taken of the object to result in a signal that produces an image of the object having a higher quality than any of the single images". The limitation is described in paragraph 0020 of the application with reference to Fig. 6. Chen discloses only that discrete images taken from multiple viewpoints are combined to form a larger image, i.e., a panoramic or composite image. Although Chen discloses that there may be overlapping regions in the images, Chen fails to disclose the limitation of "combining a plurality of corrected image signals corresponding to a plurality of substantially identical images". Chen also fails to teach or suggest this limitation because Chen teaches only that discrete images are combined to form larger images.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 10 and 21 are allowable over Chen.

Dependent claims 3-9, 11-13, 15-20, and 22-27, each being dependent on one of independent claims 1, 10, 14, and 21, are deemed to be allowable for the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claims 1, 10, 14, and 21, as well as for the additional reasons contained therein.

New claims 24 and 27 further recite that a predetermined number of images are taken when the brightness of the image is below a threshold. This is disclosed in the last sentence of paragraph [0020] of the present application. Chen does not address the limitation of taking multiple image signals of substantially the same image because Chen does not teach or suggest correcting the image when the brightness is below a threshold. Accordingly, claims 24 and 27 should be allowable for at least these additional reasons.

New claims 25 and 28 further recite that the predetermined number of images is a sufficient number of images to produce a reconstructed image above a predetermined brightness

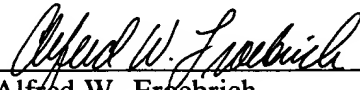
threshold. Chen fails to address taking multiple image signals of the same image. Accordingly, new claims 25 and 28 are allowable for at least these additional reasons.

New claims 26 and 29 correspond to claims 11 and 18 and depend from independent claims 10 and 21.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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